

NATIONAL PATIENT SAFETY GOALS for 2007

Improve the accuracy of patient information

Improve the effectiveness of communication among caregivers

Improve the safety of using medications

Reduce the risk of health care associated infections

Accurately and completely reconcile medications across the care continuum

Reduce the risk of harm from falls

Encourage patients to become actively involved in their own care

Reduce the risk of influenza and pneumococcal disease in older adults

Communicate a means for patients and their families to report safety concerns



**For more information about
BCMA**

Ask your medication nurse



Bar Code Medication Administration

(BCMA)

Our Continued
Commitment
to Patient Safety



***The safest way to receive
your medication while
hospitalized***

Understanding BCMA

How will I get my medications while I am in the hospital?

- The VA uses BCMA.

What is BCMA?

- BCMA stands for Bar Code Medication Administration.

Why does the VA use it?

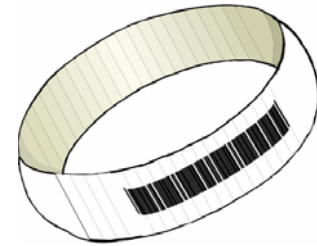
- VA uses BCMA because we take patient safety very seriously. We want to make sure that all of our patients receive the right medication at the right time.

Who makes BCMA work?

- Your provider orders the medications.
- A pharmacist makes sure you are not allergic to the medication. A pharmacist will also check for interactions with other medications you are taking.
- The nurse gives you the medication that has been ordered

How will the Nurse know which medications to give me?

- When you are admitted to the hospital, a bar coded identification band is placed on your wrist. It includes your name, social security number and date of birth.
- Before you receive any medication, the nurse will scan the barcode on your identification band. This allows the nurse to pull up your current medication orders on the computer.
- The nurse then scans the barcode on all medications due at that time. The nurse then gives you those medications.



Why is this method so safe?

- It is safe because it uses a computer to compare your orders with the drugs to be given. If there is a problem, your nurse is alerted not to give the medication and to call the pharmacy.

How often must my wristband be scanned?

- Your wristband will be scanned every time you are to receive medication.

How can I help?

- Allow the nurse to scan your wristband. Even though the nurse may know you, it is still important to identify you by scanning your wristband. If you have any questions about your medications or BCMA, please ask your nurse, provider or pharmacist.